

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURRENCE
ALAUDIDAE: LARKS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	4, 9, 11	R
HIRUNINIDAE: SWALLOWS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	14, 6	M
<input type="checkbox"/> N. Rough-winged Swallow (N)	10, 6	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow (N)	10, 6	M, S ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow (N)	10, 6	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow (N)	12, 6	S
CORVIDAE: JAYS AND CROWS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	1, 14	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Magpie	14	R
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	14	R
PARIDAE: TITMICE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	1, 12 (feeders)	R
SITTIDAE: NUTHATCHES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	1, 12 (feeders)	R
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	1, 12 (feeders)	R
CERTHIDAE: CREEPERS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	1, 13	W
TROGLODYTIDAE: WRENS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Wren	10	M * S ? (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren (N)	1, 12	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren	2, 3	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren	7 (tall)	S *
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren	7 (short)	2 ? (b)
MUSCICAPIDAE: KINGLETS AND THRUSHES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	M, W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1, 3	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	13, 14	M, S *
<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Bluebird	13, 14	M, W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Townsend's Solitaire	1, 3	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery (N)	2, 3	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush (N)	1, 3	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush (N)	1, 3	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	1, 3	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush (N)	1, 3	M *, S ? (b)
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	14, 1, 3	R
MIMIDAE: MOCKERS AND THRASHERS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird (N)	1, 3	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mockingbird	14, 3	S ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	1, 3	S
MOTACILLIDAE: PIPITS		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Pipit	4, 5, 8, 11	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Sprague's Pipit	5, 11	M *

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURRENCE
BOMBYCILLIDAE: WAXWINGS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bohemian Waxwing	1, 3	W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	1, 3	M, R *
LANIIDAE: SHRIKES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shrike	1, 3, 14	W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Loggerhead Shrike	1, 3, 14	S
STURNIDAE: STARLINGS		
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	14, 12, 11	R
VIREONIDAE: VIREOS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bell's Vireo (N)	2, 3	S (b)
<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Vireo (N)	1, 3	M, S ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo (N)	1	S ? (b)
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo (N)	1	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo (N)	1, 3	S
EMBERIZIDAE: WARBLERS, SPARROWS, BLACKBIRDS, ETC.		
(Sub-family Parulimnae: Wood Warblers)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler (N)	1	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler (N)	1, 3	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler (N)	1, 2, 3	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler (N)	1, 3	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler (N)	2, 3	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler (N)	1	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	1, 3	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler (N)	1, 3	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler (N)	1, 3	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler (N)	1	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Black and White Warbler (N)	1, 3	S *
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart (N)	1	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird (N)	1, 3	M, S *
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush (N)	2, 3	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler (N)	3	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	2, 3, 7	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler (N)	1, 3	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-breasted Chat (N)	3	S
(Thraupinae: Tanagers)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Tanager (N)	1	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager (N)	1	S * (b)
(Cardinalineae: Cardinals, Grosbeaks, and Buntings)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	1, 3	R *
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak (N)	1, 3	M, S ? (b)
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-headed Grosbeak (N)	1, 3	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Grosbeak (N)	3	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Lazuli Bunting (N)	1, 3	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting (N)	1, 3	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel (N)	3, 5, 11	S *
(Emberizanae: Towhees, Sparrows, Juncos, Longspurs)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rufous-sided towhee	3	S
<input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow	3, 11	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow (N)	3, 11, 14	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow (N)	3, 11	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	3, 11, 14	S

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURRENCE
(Emberizanae: Towhees, Sparrows, Juncos, Longspurs, Cont.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	3, 5, 11, 14	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow	3, 11, 14	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Lark Bunting	5, 11	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	2, 5 (wet meadow)	8, 11
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	5, 11	S
<input type="checkbox"/> LeConte's Sparrow	5, 7 (wet meadow+short)	M ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	2, 3, 7	M, R ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow (N)	2, 3	M
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	2, 3, 11	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	3, 11	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Harris' Sparrow	3, 11	M, W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	3, 11, 14	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Lapland Longspur	4, 5, 9, 11	M, W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-collared Longspur	4, 5, 9, 11	M
(Icterinae: Meadowlarks, Blackbirds and Orioles)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	5 (wet meadow), 11	M, S ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	3, 7, 11	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark	5 (wet meadow), 11	M, S ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	4, 5, 9, 11	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird (N)	7, 11	M, S
<input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird	2, 3, 11	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	14, 11	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	ALL	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole	1, 3	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Oriole (N)	1, 3	S
FRINGILLIDAE: FINCHES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch	1, 3, 12 (feeders)	W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Crossbill	1, 12 (feeders)	M, R *
<input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Crossbill	1, 12 (feeders)	W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll	3, 11, 12 (feeders)	W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin	1, 2, 11, 12 (feeders)	R
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	1, 2, 3, 11, 12 (feeders)	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Evening Grosbeak	1, 12 (feeders)	W *
PASSERIDAE: WEAVER FINCHES		
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	11, 12 (feeders)	R

BIRDS OF THE NEBRASKA SANDHILLS

Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest
and Nebraska National Forest
(Bessey Ranger District)

FIELD CHECKLIST

This checklist includes 235 bird species found in the 116,000-acre Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest and adjacent portions of the Nio-brara River, as well as Merritt Reservoir in Cherry County, and the 90,000-acre Nebraska National Forest near Halsey and the adjacent portions of the Dismal and Middle Loup Rivers in Thomas County and Blaine County. Both units are located in the sandhill grasslands of north central Nebraska and both contain large areas of planted coniferous forest.

The 20,000 acres of planted trees on the Bessey District is the largest man-made forest in the United States and some natural riparian woodlands occur in both units, as do shrubs in "sandhill thickets" but still, the dominant vegetation of these areas is typical of sandhill prairie. Land uses include a variety of outdoor and wildlife related recreation as well as livestock grazing.

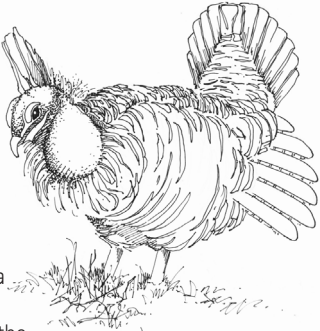
Many people have provided the observations that have been used to compile this checklist, and the Nebraska National Forest wishes to thank all contributors. Special thanks go to Wayne Mollhoff and James E. Ducey for their comments, and to Richard A. Peterson who was responsible for compiling the completed list.

Observers are encouraged to report observations of species listed as rare or uncertain occurrence status, and species not listed to:
Bessey Ranger District Office near Halsey (Phone: 308-533-2257) or the Ranger Station, 19 miles south of Nenzel (Phone: 402-823-4154).

CHECK LIST SYMBOLS

NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS:

This term describes species that breed in North America and spend their nonbreeding period primarily south of the United States. It is limited to species that use that use terrestrial habitats. These species are designated with an (N) after the species name. The populations of some of these species are declining, and studies are underway to determine the causes.



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RELATIVE ABUNDANCE:

Most species listed in this checklist occur regularly within the area described above, however, some species are designated as rare (*) because they occur irregularly, and/or in very low numbers. A few species are thought to be regular, but are listed as uncertain (?) because of few reports and/or the difficulty of identification.

MANAGEMENT DIVISIONS

Species that primarily occur in the area of the Nebraska National Forest (Bessey Ranger District) = (b).

Species that primarily occur in the area of the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest = (m).

SEASONAL OCCURRENCE

M = Migrant (primarily spring and fall or transient anytime)
W = Winter Visitor (primarily Dec, Jan, Feb occurrence)
S = Summer Resident (indicates nesting, June, July occurrence)
R = Permanent Resident (found year round)

MAJOR HABITATS USED

TERRESTRIAL HABITATS

- 1. **Trees:** Ponderosa pine, red cedar and jack pine in the planted coniferous forest; green ash, boxelder, elm, hackberry in the planted deciduous and the few natural woodlands, and cottonwood and peachleaf willow in riparian areas. Some hackberry occurs in the "sandhills thickets".
- 2. **Riparian Shrubs:** Willow
- 3. **Other Shrubs:** Snowberry, wild rose, chokecherry and American plum.
- 4. **Short Grass:** Hairy grama, blue grama and bluegrass.
- 5. **Mid and Tall Grasses:** Prairie sandreed, sand bluestem, little bluestem, switchgrass, and porcupine grass.

AQUATIC HABITATS

- 6. **Open Water:** Occurs in streams, stockponds and reservoirs (mostly frozen December to March).
- 7. **Marsh:** Primarily sedge, rush, cattails and bulrushes.
- 8. **Shorelines:** Bare ground around reservoirs, lakes, and along streams.
- 9. **Prairie Dog Colonies:** Limited to Nebraska National Forest.
- 10. Cliffs, steep banks, cutbanks, blowouts, gullies.
- 11. Cropland (very limited), weed patches and ditches.
- 12. Buildings, bridges and various structures.
- 13. Burned areas with standing dead trees.
- 14. **Woodland/Forest Edge:** Trees with adjacent grasslands.

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURRENCE
GAVIIDAE: LOONS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	6	M * (m)
PODICIPEDIDAE: GREEBES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe	6, 7	S (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Grebe	6	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Eared Grebe	6, 7	M (m), S ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Grebe	6	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Clark's Grebe	6	M ?
PELICANIDAE: PELICANS		
<input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican	6, 8	M (m)
PHALACORACIDAE: CORMORANTS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	6, 8, 1	M (m), S ?
ARDEIDAE: BITTERNS AND HERONS		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Bettern	7	M, S *
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Heron	7, 8, 1	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-backed Heron	7, 8, 1	S (b)
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-crowned Night Heron	7, 8, 1	M, S ?
ANATIDAE: SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Trumpeter Swan	6, 7	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater White-fronted Goose	6, 8, 11	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Goose	6, 8, 11	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Ross' Goose	6, 8, 11	M ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	5, 6, 8, 11	M, S *
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	6, 7, 1	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	5, 6, 7, 8	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	5, 6, 7, 8	S, R *
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pintail	5, 6, 7, 8	S (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	5, 6, 7, 8	S (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Cinnamon Teal	5, 6, 7, 8	S ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	5, 6, 7, 8	S (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall	5, 6, 7, 8	S (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon	5, 6, 7, 8	S * (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Canvasback	6, 7	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Redhead	6, 7	M, S ? (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck	6, 7	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Scaup	6, 7	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye	6	M, W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Bufflehead	6	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	6	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser	6	M, W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Duck	6, 7	S (m)
CATHARTIDAE: VULTURES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	10, 12, 1, 3, 4, 5	S
ACCIPITRIDAE: KITES, EAGLES, HAWKS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey	6, 1	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle	6, 1, 9, ALL	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier	3, 5, 7	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	1, 3	M, S *
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	1, 3	M, R ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Goshawk	1, 3	W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk (N)	1, 3, 5, 8	M *
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Hawk (N)	14, 5, 9, 11	S

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURRENCE
ACCIPITRIDAE: KITES, EAGLES, HAWKS, (CONTINUED)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	14, 5, 9	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Ferruginous Hawk	4, 5, 9, 11, 14	M, W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk	5, 14	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Eagle	10, 14, 9, ALL	W, R ? (m)
FALCONIDAE: FALCONS		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestel	13, 14, 11	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Merlin (N)	13, 11, 8	M, W *
<input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon (N)	4, 5, 8, 9, 11	M*
<input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Falcon	10, 4, 5, 9, 11	M, R ? (m)
PHASIANIDAE: PHEASANT, GROUSE, TURKEY, QUAIL		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	3, 5, 7, 11	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Prairie Chicken	5, 11	R (b)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-tailed Grouse	3, 5, 11	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	3, 11, 14	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Bobwhite	1, 3, 11, 14	R (b)
RALLIDAE: RAILS AND COOTS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rail	7	S *
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora	7	S *
<input type="checkbox"/> Americn Coot	6, 7	S
GRUIDAE: CRANES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane	8, 11	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Whooping Crane	8, 11	M *
CHARADRIIDAE: PLOVERS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-bellied Plover	8	M ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-palmated Plover	8	M * (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Piping Plover	8	M ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	4, 8, 9	S
<input type="checkbox"/> American Avocet	6, 7 (short), 8	M, A *
SCOLOPACIDAE: SANDPIPERS AND PHALAROPES *		
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs	8	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs	8	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper	8	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Willet	5, 7, (short), 8	M S *
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper	8	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper (N)	5	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-billed Curlew (N)	4, 5(wet meadow), 8, 9	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Marbled Godwit	5, 7 (short), 8	M ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Sanderling	8	M ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-palmated Sandpiper	8	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Sandpiper	8	M ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Sandpiper	8	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> White-rumped Sandpiper	8	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Baird's Sandpiper	8	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Pectoral Sandpiper	8	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Stilt Sandpiper	8	M ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Buff-breasted Sandpiper	4, 8	M ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-billed Dowitcher	8	M ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-billed Dowitcher	8	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Snipe	5 (wet meadow), 7, 8	M, S ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Phalarope	6, 7 (short), 8	M, S ?

SPECIES	HABITAT USED	SEASONAL OCCURRENCE
LARIDAE: GULLS AND TERNS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Franklin's Gull	6, 7, 8	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	6, 8	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Herring Gull	6, 8	M (m)
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Tern	6, 8	M ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Forster's Tern	6, 7, 8	M, S ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Tern	6, 8	M * (b)
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Tern	6, 7, 8	M, S ?
COLUMBIDAE: PIGEONS AND DOVES		
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Dove	10, 11, 12	R (b)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	14, 3, 5	S
CUCULIDAE: CUCKOOS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo (N)	1, 3	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo (N)	1, 3	S
TYTONIDAE: BARN OWL		
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Owl	10, 11, 12, 14	S *
STRIGIDAE: TYPICAL OWLS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Screech Owl	1, 3	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl	14, ALL	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Burrowing Owl (N)	4, 9	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Long-eared Owl	14	R *
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl	5, 7, 1	R *
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Saw-whet Owl	1, 3	M *, R ?
CAPRIMULGIDAE: GOATSUCKERS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk (N)	4, 5, 11, 1	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Poorwill	10, 1	S
APODIDAE: SWIFTS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift (N)	12	S (b)
TROCHILIDAE: HUMMINGBIRDS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird (N)	12 (feeders)	M * (b)
ALCEDINADAE: KINGFISHERS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	6, 10	R
PICIDAE: WOODPECKERS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker	13, 14	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	M, R ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	M * (b)
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	1	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	1, 13	R
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	13, 14	R
TYRANNIDAE: TYRANT FLYCATCHERS		
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Wood Pewee (N)	1	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood Pewee (N)	1	M,S ?
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher (N)	2, 3	S (b)
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher (N)	1, 3	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	1, 12	S *
<input type="checkbox"/> Say's Phoebe	5, 10, 12	S *
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher (N)	1	S *
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Kingbird (N)	14	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird (N)	14	S